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LEGISLATORS WORK FOR FOOD FOR NEEDY CHILDREN

Will there be a national food program for the needy children in your camp for the summer of 1976? The answer is "maybe". One possible answer is an amendment to the National School Lunch Act and Child Nutrition Act, H. R. 4222 sponsored by Congressman Perkins of Kentucky and S. 850 sponsored by Senator McGovern of North Dakota.

The House bill was passed in April but action is still pending on the Senate bill. If the amendments are passed, the results could mean reimbursement, at rates to be determined, to resident camps serving needy children. The law could provide breakfast, lunch, dinner and a snack.

Advantage of tying such food supplies into the school lunch program would be the requirement that the Department of Agriculture accept and fund any qualified group applying for entrance to the program. This could be an important boost to non-profit resident camps and take the food program out of the "up and down" commodity program controlled by USDA.

Camp directors serving needy children and having an interest in this support to their food service problem should contact their senator.

What Do You Think?

"Camping Magazine" welcomes comments from readers and invites you to write your reactions to articles that appear in each issue, as well as your thoughts about problems and concerns of organized camping. In the past we have tried to accomplish the purpose of "What Do You Think?" by publishing letters, either in full or edited for space. This month we try something a little different.

Your letters are the basis of the feature, your thinking guides the line of thought. It's the handling that's different. Let us know if you feel this is a better way--or not as good.

Different readers have different needs and this is reflected in the letters we receive. Sam Slom, director of Camp Shalom of Central Florida writes: "I enjoyed reading the 'Camp Themes' item in the January issue. I appreciate any new ideas that I can use in our summer program, and I will certainly utilize those I read..."

The appeal of "how to" articles is both wide and strong and reader reaction confirms this again and again.

Some readers, however, have needs such as reflected in a letter from Dr. Robert R. Perkinson, Clinical and Counseling Psychology, Jackson WY, who says: "... The only criticism I could possibly have of your publication is that certain more objective or scientific articles could be included. These articles would give camp directors objective evidence with which to develop programs and convince parents of the importance of camping..."

He continues: "I have enjoyed reading your magazine and sincerely believe in camping experiences for emotionally disturbed children. I hope this letter will encourage camp

directors to broaden their horizons by including programs for these children."

It would be valuable to have a national directory of camps serving those with special needs. Easter Seal can provide such a service for parents of crippled children but we are unaware of any national directory of camps serving the emotionally disturbed and others with special needs. If there is such a listing or anyone working on one please contact Editor, "Camping", 5 Mountain Ave., North Plainfield, NJ 07060.

During the past year we have enjoyed increased contact with the academic community. Your editor has been pleased that most of the communications, including articles or suggestions for articles, have come from college and university personnel who have a working experience with camps as well as an academic focus on their problems.

We are certainly grateful for the many letters praising our selection of articles. It is more "false modesty" than lack of appreciation that has made us fail to print most of them. An example comes from C. C.

"Spike" White, Brandon MO who says: "You surely have had some good and useful articles in 'Camping' lately. Keep up the good work." Thanks, all of you, for the morale boosters.

June issue

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